

FINAL EXAM QUOTATION GUIDE
AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE
SPRING 2019

QUOTE: if you teach that nigger (speaking of myself) how to read, there would be no keeping him. It would be forever unfit him to be a slave. He would at once become unmanageable, and of no value to his master. As to himself, it could do him no good, but a great deal of harm. It would make him discontented and unhappy.

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life Of Frederick Douglass*, (p351/vol.1)

QUOTE: I'm glad God's ways are not our ways,/ He does not see as man;/ Within His love I know there's room/ For those whom others ban.

SOURCE: Frances E. W. Harper, "Songs for The People," (p. 457/Vol.1)

QUOTE: The wrong which your gentlemen have done against helpless black women in defiance of your own law is written on the foreheads of two million mulattoes ,and written in ineffaceable blood. And finally, when you fasten crime upon this race as its peculiar trait, they answer that slavery was the arch-crime, and lynching and lawlessness its twin abortion; that color and race are not crimes, and yet it is which in this land receives most unceasing condemnations, North, East, South, and West.

SOURCE: W. E. B. Du Bois. *The Souls of Black Folk*. Vol. A. Pg. 723

QUOTE: I insist that the question of the future is how best to keep these millions from brooding over the wrongs of the past and the difficulties of the present, so that all their energies may be bent toward a cheerful striving cooperation with their white neighbors toward a larger, juster, and fuller future.

SOURCE: W. E. B. Du Bois. *The Souls of Black Folk*, (p.723/vol.1)

QUOTE: If we should ever get to Heaven, we shall find nobody to reproach us for being black or for being slaves.

SOURCE: Arthur A. Schomberg, "The Negro Digs Up His Past," (p946/vol.1)

QUOTE: we make no compromise, we make no apology in this our declaration. We do not desire to create offense on the part of other races, but we are determined that we shall be heard, that we shall be given rights to which we are entitled.

SOURCE: Marcus Garvey "The Future as I See It" P989

QUOTE: Men of other races and nations have become alarmed at this attitude of the Negro in his desire to do things for himself and by himself. This alarm has become so universal that organizations have been brought into being here, there and everywhere for the purpose of deterring and obstructing this forward move of our race.

SOURCE: Marcus Garvey, "The Negro Is Ready," pg 989

QUOTE: The new Negro shall not be deceived. The new Negro refuses to take advice from anyone who has not felt with him, and suffered with him. We have suffered for three hundred years, therefore we feel that the time has come when only those who have suffered with us can interpret our feelings and our spirit.

SOURCE: Marcus Garvey. "Crocodiles" as Friends. P990

QUOTE: Taint no law on earth dat kin make a man be decent if it aint in 'im

SOURCE: Zora Neale Hurston. "Sweat." Vol A. Pg. 1035

QUOTE: Was Cleopatra gorgeous,/ In a gown of gold?

SOURCE: Langston Hughes. "Jazzonia". Vol. A. Pg. 1306

QUOTE: I, too, sing America. I am the darker brother. They send me to eat in the kitchen When company comes, But I laugh, And eat well, And grow strong.

SOURCE: Langston Hughes "I, Too" P1308

QUOTE: I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood in human veins

SOURCE: Langston Hughes. "The Negro Speaks of Rivers". Vol. A. Pg. 1304

QUOTE: Christ is a nigger,/ Beaten and black: / Oh, bare your back!

SOURCE: Langston Hughes, pg. 1313, "Christ in Alabama"

QUOTE: Abortions will not let you forget./ You remember the children you got that you got that you did not get

SOURCE: Gwendolyn Brooks,"The Mother," 326

QUOTE: In seas. In wind sweep. They were black and loud. /And not retainable. And not discreet.

SOURCE: Gwendolyn Brooks, "Riot," 340

Quote: He opened us—
 who was a key,

 who was a man.

SOURCE: Gwendolyn Brooks, "Malcolm X," (p. 339/vol.2)

QUOTE: He always went on like this, but he wasn't, ever, really as bad as he sounded, not even on weekends, when he got drunk. As a matter of fact, he was always on the lookout for "something a little better," but he died before he found it.

SOURCE: James Baldwin "Sonny's Blues" P420

QUOTE: It ain't only the bad ones, nor yet the dumb ones that gets sucked under.

SOURCE: James Baldwin "Sonny's Blues" (p. 421/vol.2)

QUOTE: This panic motivates our cruelty, this fear of the dark makes it impossible that our lives should be other than superficial; this interlocked with and feeding our glittering, mechanical, inescapable civilization which has put to death our freedom.

SOURCE: James Baldwin, "Everybody's Protest Novel," 397

QUOTE: He is a negro, from the remarkable legal point of view which obtains the United States, but, more importantly, as he tried to make clear to his interlocutor, he was a negro by choice and by depth of involvement-by experience

SOURCE: James Baldwin, "Princes And Powers," 438

QUOTE: We are not Negroes by our own desire, but, in effect, because of Europe. What unites all Negroes is the injustices they have suffered at European hands.

SOURCE: James Baldwin, "Princes and Powers" 453

QUOTE: Northern white police were later to shoot my uncle Oscar. And my father was finally himself to die by the white man's hand

SOURCE: Malcolm X, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, 567

QUOTE: I am in agreement one hundred percent with those racists who say that no government laws ever can *force* brotherhood.

SOURCE: Malcolm X. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. Vol B. Pg. 581

QUOTE: "What you are telling me is that it isn't the American white man who is a racist, but it's the American political, economic, and social atmosphere that automatically nourishes a racist psychology in the white man."

SOURCE: Malcolm X *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* P582

QUOTE: We know this painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed

SOURCE: Martin Luther King, Jr. Letter from Birmingham Jail, 596

QUOTE: We have waited for more than 340 years for our constitutional and God given rights.

SOURCE: Martin Luther King Jr. Letter from Birmingham Jail. Vol B. Pg. 597

QUOTE: Frankly, I have yet to engage in a direct-action campaign that was "well timed" in the view of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation. For years now I

have heard the word "Wait!" it rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This "Wait" has almost always meant "Never."

SOURCE: Martin Luther King, Jr. Letter from Birmingham Jail P596-597

QUOTE: an unjust law is no law at all.

SOURCE: Martin Luther King, Jr. Letter from Birmingham Jail, (p. 598/vol.2)

QUOTE: "What does Terran blood taste like to you?" She said nothing. "What are you?" I whispered. "What are we to you?"

SOURCE: Octavia Butler "Bloodchild" P1263

QUOTE: What's remarkable is not how many failed in the face of discrimination, but how many men and women overcame the odds;

SOURCE: Barack Obama "Sen. Barack Obama Addresses Race at the Constitution Center in Philadelphia" P3

QUOTE: "... But it is a story that has seared into my genetic makeup the idea that this nation is more than the sum of its parts – that out of many, we are truly one."

SOURCE: Barack Obama, "Sen. Barack Obama Addresses Race at the Constitution Center in Philadelphia"